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123. *Election of members to the Towns Improvement Committees.*

limits of Towns might be authorized to elect a fair proportion of the non-official members of the Towns Improvement Committees. This would make local self-government a reality and enable the public to have a voice in municipal administration—the training ground for higher forms of Representative Government.

Dewan's reply.—The Municipalities Bill will provide for this.

124. *The Civil Courts and the High Court Regulations Amendment Bills.*

The same member represented—

that the principles underlying the Bills to amend the Civil Courts Regulation and the High Court Regulation were not wholly acceptable to the public. He pointed out that the raising of the small cause jurisdiction of Munsiffs from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 was likely to result in miscarriage of justice and suggested that the delegation of such jurisdiction up to Rs. 20 to the Provertikar or other Village judiciary as in British India would be the best method of lightening the work of the Munsiffs. He observed that the proposal to have two classes of Munsiffs with jurisdictions up to Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 was unnecessary and unsound and opposed to all British Indian precedents. There was no necessity, he remarked, for the creation of a new class of Subordinate Judges. The reduction in the number of Judges in the High Court from four to three was likely to weaken public confidence especially in the adjudication of important civil and criminal appeals.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

125. *Enactment for partition in Marumakkathayom Tarwads.*

The same member requested—

that an enactment might be introduced for arresting the growing evil of litigiousness in Marumakkathayom Tarwads and for affording facilities for partition. The law of inheritance and succession had not kept pace with the progress of society during the last three or four decades and the conflict between the two had, he observed, brought about a state of affairs not far removed from chronic litigiousness leading to utter ruin. He said that it was the duty of Government to harmonize law with the altered conditions of society. As the question affected the welfare of the bulk of the population, he suggested that a Commission might be appointed to enquire into the subject and report on it.

Mr. Krishnan Pandala (Member, Quilon Taluk) in supporting the suggestion dwelt on the causes which had brought about the deplorable state of affairs. They were, he said,

(1) the theory that no Marumakkathayom Tarwads of whatever number of collateral branches it might consist and whatever be its mode of life was in law compulsorily partible, and

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(2) the corollary that a man's property went on his death not to his direct heirs or *Seshakars* but to the Tarwad as a whole, *i. e.* in practice, very often into the hands of a distant collateral who claimed by the first rule to be the Karanavan.

These rules, he said, were not necessarily born of the instinct or a part of the usage of the Marumakkathayees but inferences drawn by the Courts within recent times and applied to cases for which they were never intended. Examining the history and working of these rules, he observed that the state of the law was not calculated to secure peace and harmony in Tarwads and to conserve and improve the Tarwad estates.

Dewan's reply.—If you put these arguments in a connected form and place them before Government, we will do our best to meet your wishes in regard to the appointment of a Commission to investigate the matter.

Mr. Marthandan Tampi also requested—

126. *Education of Mahomedans.*

that greater encouragement might be given to the education of the Mahomedans. As in British India, some concessions might, he said, be given them in regard to fees and scholarships. He suggested also that, wherever possible, Mahomedans might be given such commercial and industrial education as would make them more useful to themselves and less harmful to their neighbours.

The same member also urged—

127. *Introduction of an Inspection Code for Schools.*

that an Inspection Code might be introduced for the guidance of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of schools and that uniformity might be brought about in inspection work and the conduct of examinations.

Dewan's reply.—Will be attended to.

The same member further advocated—

128. *Agricultural and Industrial education.*

that practical training in agriculture might be imparted in Primary schools and industrial and technical education in the Middle and High Schools.

Dewan's reply.—We have made a beginning in this direction. Teachers are being trained for the Primary schools to start with and they will receive instruction in the Agricultural Farm in Trivandrum. They will then be sent out to impart practical lessons in agriculture in model farms to be opened in the vicinity of Primary schools.

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